

Appl. No 10/665,640

Amdt. Dated 05/19/2006

Reply to Office action of 03/31/2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the words “inching switch” in paragraphs from page 6 line 4 to page 7 line 7 have been revised to “microswitch”.

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Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response to this, claims 1-5 have been revised appropriately.

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Claims 1-5 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsu (5094259). Applicant doesn't think this rejection is reasonable and submits that the present invention is totally different from Hsu, because of the following reasons:

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Achieving the timing effect of Hsu requires the cooperation of many components, such as the protruding point 31 on the knob 3, the LS, the circuit 10, the base plate 12, the valve device 9, and these components of the timer device are installed in the gas stove. Therefore, Hsu's timer device must be assembled in the gas stove at the time the gas stove is made. On the other hand, many parts of the timer device of Hsu, such as the knob 3, the valve device 9, are also the indispensable components of the gas stove. In other words, the timer device of Hsu is an inseparable part of the gas stove.

The timer device of the present invention comprises the disc-like wheel, the motor, the driving wheel, the microswitch and a timing circuit, all these parts are disposed in a housing 12, and then the housing 12 is installed on a surface of a gas stove, and the timer device is designed to cooperate with the knob 11 of a gas stove. The timer device of the present invention is an independent structure detachably installed on a gas stove. This feature makes it possible for the old style gas stove without a timing function to have a timing function by being provided with such a timer device, for example, by installing the timer device on the surface of the gas stove without a timing function. However, Hsu can't do this. Therefore, the timer device of the present invention is totally distinguishable over that of Hsu.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Applicant respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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